

YOUNGMEN ASSOCIATION "OTETZ PAISSY"

THE TRUE SITUATION
OF THE BULGARIANS
AND THEIR CLAIMS

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The True Situation Of The Bulgarians And Their Claims.

Bulgaria suffers an unendurable injustice. The Peace Treaty of Neuilly has thrown the whole nation into an unheard of spiritual and material subjection. The Bulgarian Youth appeals for a peaceful revision of the Treaty of Neuilly.

Refugees.

Since 1878 up to the present moment more than a million Bulgarian refugees are oppressing the already heavy financial and political situation of poor Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian refugees are a sad result of the confused political events which took place on the Balkan Peninsula.

Every Bulgarian out of six is a refugee. The property and the occupation of those unhappy men and women banished from their father's homes are lost for ever. Our neighbours in the course of their enormous territorial expansion left no place for our countrymen.

No Protection.

Every sixth Bulgarian is thrown into desperate misery which no European can imagine; because Bulgaria, thanks to the Peace Treaty of Neuilly, is deprived of all possibilities either to defend the prerogatives of her refugees, or to strengthen economically so that she may guarantee them an endurable existence. Moreover the Peace Treaty of Neuilly reestablishes and justifies the terrible injustices done to Bulgaria by all previous treaties signed in the name of disintegration, oppression and ruin of the Bulgarian nation.

Bulgaria Is Oppressed.

The Peace Treaty of Neuilly is strangling Bulgaria because it has deprived her of her natural access to the Aegean Sea.

Bulgaria Is Overpopulated.

The Peace Treaty of Neuilly overburdens with population little Bulgaria — not yet entirely developed economically. On the other hand the population of the Subjected Lands (those shown with black on the map) suffers such an unheard of political and economical regime, that it decreases in number and its normal existence is hindered.

Statistics Speak.

How desperate and unnatural the condition of the Bulgarian people is, will become clear when we look over the most recent statistics made out for the Subjected Bulgarian Lands and for Bulgaria itself. They describe the unnatural distribution of the Bulgarians in the Subjected Lands, created by the demolishing statements of the Treaty of Neuilly.

Names of the Subjected Bulgarian Lands	Area in square klms	Popula- tion*)	Density of the popula- tion per square klm.
Dobrudja	23,262	693,190	30
Thrace under Turkey . .	13,664	282,240	20
Thrace under Greece . .	8,712	303,171	35
Total in Thrace	22,376	585,411	26
Moravia (together with the Western Ends) .	21,594	1,013,164	47
Western Ends	1,545	86,000	56
Macedonia under Greece	34,153	1,412,477	44
Macedonia under Serbia	26,367	857,057	32
Total for Macedonia . .	60,520	2,269,534	37
Total for the Subjected Lands	127,752	4,561,299	33
Kingdom Bulgaria . . .	103,146	6,006,000	60

The above stated data obviously show that the population in the Subjected Lands is almost half in density compared with this of Bulgaria. This no doubt, shows the terrible regime under which our brothers and sisters are living. Since 1878 the population in Bulgaria has twice increased while in the Subjected Lands it has decreased.

Today nobody knows the number of the Bulgarians in the Subjected Lands, because the neighbouring countries do not give exact and true statistical material regarding the Bulgarian nationality. Moreover most of them do not even recognise

*) The statistics are for the population in general.

the existence of Bulgarian populaon in their territories and in their statistics do not mention the name Bulgarian. But indirectly they recognise the existence of compact Bulgarian masses by the special care they take to suppress every possible Bulgarian element that may come to life.

But sixteen years have passed since the derogatory Treaty of Neuilly has been signed and for the impartial observer it has become clear that the Bulgarian people is not a mass adaptable to assimilation. Upon the subjected Bulgarians has been exercised an unheard of terror, characterized with atrocious assassinations and severe economical and spiritual oppression unknown to the history of mankind. Most refined methods were tried, but the Bulgarians sturdily resist and keep their nationality. For they are sons of a nation which for centuries has played a great part in the history of Europe, possessing her own culture, civilisation and will for existence.

It is not possible that a nation which has never had bad feelings or ill intentions toward any other nation to be so severely disintegrated and so harshly oppressed. And all this done in the twentieth century and watched by all the civilised European nations.

Bulgaria Demands:

The Bulgarian refugees should return to their native lands — to the lands of their grandfathers — and there, together with the remaining Bulgarians from all the Subjected Lands, enjoy all the minorities' rights under the protection of the international Justice.

Cultured and civilized Europe, at last, must understand that those two and a half million suffering Bulgarians who have remained under the yoke, deserve in the name of humanity to be granted at least the most necessary and natural human rights:

Liberty for the Bulgarian language which today is persecuted with most horrible methods.

Liberty for the Bulgarian national customs, — sacred remnants of the past centuries, which even the Islâm tolerated while today they are most severely battered down.

Liberty for the Bulgarian Literature and Press, to which the boundaries of our neighbors are so strikly closed, that even the New Testament can hardly pass over when in Bulgarian.

Liberty for the Bulgarian Subjected Lands to organize in separate independent communities — a right which is given to all foreigners in Bulgaria.

The reestablishment of the Bulgarian Church and Schools in the Subjected Lands so barbarously dishonored and annihilated by our neighbors at present.

• The Subjected Bulgarian Lands are the following:

Northern Dobrudja.

The first cradle of the ancient Bulgarian nation on the Balkan Peninsula is northern Dobrudja.

In the time of the revival of the Bulgarian nation, after the dark Turkish yoke, Dobrudja was the first to wake up. The first Bulgarian school was opened in Tulcha near the delta of the Danube in the year 1811. The first new Bulgarian school for girls was opened again in Tulcha in the year 1820.

Before our Liberation (1877), in northern Dobrudja there have existed more than sixty Bulgarian schools and about so many Bulgarian churches. In Tulcha also there existed one Bulgarian high school.

The Rumanians, after their arrival in Dobrudja (1878) destroyed the whole educational, religious and social progress, created and promoted with great efforts and laborious sufferings by all the Bulgarians.

Today in Dobrudja there exists only one Bulgarian church in Custendja, supported by private donations.

Southern Dobrudja.

Bulgaria's richest cereal resource has led for thirty seven years a free life in the boundaries of the Third Bulgarian Kingdom. One forth of the whole Bulgarian production was coming from Dobrudja. During 1913 the Peace Treaty of Bucharest cut off Southern Dobrudja from Bulgaria and thus opened a wound in the body of the Bulgarian nation.

During 1912 in Southern Dobrudja there existed 66 churches and 276 schools with 21,951 students.

Today there have remained somewhere in the villages some churches forgotten by the Rumanians. But however, their number gradually decreases, for the aim of the Rumanians is to destroy all monuments reminding of the Bulgarian nationality. In each of the towns of Dobrich, Balchik, Silistra and Kavarna there exists by one Bulgarian school supported by private donations. Four schools in all, with 102 teachers and 3,100 students.

Moreover the lands of the Bulgarians are seized, and their proprietors are thrown into desperate misery.

Except in Dobrudja there are Bulgarian minorities in Bessarabia and Rumania-proper. The total number of the Bulgarians in Rumania is over 700,000.

The Rumanian government takes some care for the Bulgarian minorities, something which the other neighbours do not do. But how little and miserable these cares are will become clear from the following figures.

The Rumanian government spends annually for education for each person:

For a Rumanian	339.00 lei
For a German	110.00 „
For a Hungarian	7.00 „
For a Bulgarian	1.10 „

Thrace.

Since 1912 in Thrace there existed 190 churches, 11 monasteries, 136 chapels, 228 priests, 211 schools, two high schools for boys and one for girls with 333 teachers.

Today from the almost half million Bulgarian population in Thrace, have remained approximately only fifty thousand Bulgarians under Greece and two thousand under Turkey. All the Bulgarians from Thrace were forced to leave as refugees their lands and properties which were appropriated by the respective governments.

And the once beautiful and fruitful land is now depopulated and turned into wilderness, for the industrious Bulgarian agriculturist has been driven away from his native land, and so there is no one left to till it.

Moravia

For thirteen centuries the Bulgarian history on the Balkan Peninsula points out that Moravia is an indivisible part from the Bulgarian nation. But before the Liberation of Bulgaria the new Serbian Principedom seized the northern part of Moravia — the district near the river Timok. This easy prey encouraged its appetite and during the War of Liberation (1878), Serbia occupied with violence the southern part of Moravia. Then after the World War Serbia appropriated the Western Ends.

After seizing all these Bulgarian lands, Serbia tried and is now trying with incredible efforts to change the national conscience of the subjected by their absolute isolation from all that is Bulgarian. Moreover large masses of pure Serbians are sent to colonize the appropriated lands. But still this is not all; the Serbians act with most severe and unhuman means, one of the most perfect of which is to throw the whole districts into an economical oppression, into full material exhaustion and physical impossibility for existence. These Serbian methods for assimilation have had some success mainly in the towns of Moravia. But the peasants keep their nationality, they still use their language and customs and oppose any attempt for assimilation made by the Serbian colonists.

Western Ends.

The Western Ends is the last Serbian appropriation of Bulgarian lands and this was done after they had led a free life for 42 years in the boundaries of the Third Bulgarian Kingdom.

Since 1920 the Western Ends had 45 Bulgarian churches, 42 priests, 123 schools, 229 teachers, and 7,895 students with a population of 86,000 Bulgarians and only 127 Serbians.

Today all that is Bulgarian is suppressed and destroyed.

Macedonia.

The second cradle of the Bulgarian nationality today undergoes greater cruelty and brutality than under the Turkish yoke. And no European nation pays attention whatsoever that there is a population in Europe which undergoes the most ferocious torments in the history of mankind.

The new conquerors of Macedonia — the Serbians and the Greeks, during 1913 destroyed all the Bulgarian churches and schools, created and maintained with the price of thousands of victims of the Bulgarian population living there.

In Macedonia under the Turks up to the year 1913 there were six Bulgarian bishops, 1,139 churches, 1,133 priests, 981 schools, 1,763 teachers, and 56,000 students. Today even the recollection of these days is forbidden officially by the Greek and Serbian authorities under severe punishments.

What Has Been Destroyed After The Treaty Of Neuilly—1919

	Macedonia under Serbia	Macedonia under Greece	Thrace	Dobrudja	Moravia and West Ends	Total
Schools	641	340	215	276	122	1,594
Teachers	1,013	750	333	584	269	2,949
Students	37,000	19,000	11,877	21,951	7,892	97,720
Churches	761	378	326	125	45	1,635
Priests	833	300	238	*)	42	1,413

The Greek government colonized a great mass of Greeks from Asia Minor to Macedonia and Thrace, but yet there is a big area for colonization, due to the fact that a large part of the Bulgarian population and almost all Turks were turned out. The new proprietors of the rich southern Macedonia, because of their natural inclination for town life and trade, proved to be entirely incapable for agriculture and Macedonia therefore under the Greeks is an unusually neglected district.

*) In Dobrudja they were permitted, but after the death of the teachers and priests they have been substituted by Rumanians.

Serbia also tried to colonize Macedonia, but her experiment failed. The main reason for this is the unusual endurance of the Bulgarian national conscience. Thus began the heroic strife of the Macedonians against their oppressors, and as a result Serbia applied a special draconian regime in Macedonia.

Today Macedonia under the Serbs is almost cut off from the world. Every step of our brothers or any Bulgarian visitor is watched and spied. The most innocent deed may lead to the severest torments or death.

The unusual tax system aims to take the last penny from the poor peasant. All this is done purposely in order that they may kill any intents for resistance in the mind of the oppressed Macedonians. But a Macedonian will rather die than change his nationality.

The Bulgarian in the Subjected Lands has passed through fiery sufferings and as a consequence of which he has hammered a mighty will-power to resist and fight for his Bulgarian name.

The Truth About Bulgaria.

Bulgaria is the oldest Balkan nation, creator of culture and progress, guardian of the Balkan Peace and enlightening hearth to all our neighbours. It is well known how faithfully and honestly Bulgaria fulfilled and even now fulfills the international treaties and all her engagements. And that is why Bulgaria up to now bears the pains of an unjust treaty. We appeal to the world for peaceful understanding and recognition of our legitimate national rights.

The Bulgarian is brought up from his childhood in fanatic devotion to his own land and people, and does not have some of the aspirations of the other Balkan nations.

After the World War Bulgaria was exhausted. She suffered a great loss, and paid the fantastic sum of twenty billion fr. frs from 1919 to 1929, while the annual budget of Bulgaria was about one billion fr. frs.

Today one of the most industrious and honest Balkan nation leads a miserable life, due to the fact that she is deprived of her most fruitful lands, the payment of big sums to her neighbours and the lack of her natural outlet—the Aegean Sea.

Moreover Macedonia, Thrace, Moravia and Dobrudja have become arenas of severe torments, atrocious assassinations and unhuman violations. And yet Europe knows nothing of that because all is kept secret and covered by diplomacy.

There is not a human conscience which will remain indifferent, when it sees and hears the brutality with which the helpless Bulgarian people are oppressed. People are murdered simply for mentioning their nationality, the tongues of the children are cut or perforated with needles only because they speak on their mother's tongue. One should be master of

the pen to describe the dreadful terrors and the horrible assassinations done in Macedonia, Moravia, Thrace and Dobrudja.

Despite that Bulgaria has signed treaties under the patronage of the League of Nations for the protection of the Minorities, these treaties are not recognised by Serbia, Greece, Turkey and partly by Rumania. But the national spirit of the Bulgarian People shall always be a watch, watching the sufferings of their unhappy brothers.

For sixteen years Europe has been artificially misled, not knowing a single fact about the situation of the so-called Bulgarian minorities.

It is not true that Bulgaria has minorities in Macedonia, Moravia and Dobrudja. These are territories populated with Bulgarian people — *Bulgarian majorities*, with no foreign element, or if there are any foreigners they have gone there after the subjection. This fact is acknowledged by all people of the objective science, by all the ethnographic maps of the Balkans. This is even marked down in the ethnographic map of the European nations, dedicated to Wilson and made out by the general secretary of the *Union des Nationalites* Mr. J. Gabrys in the year 1918.

In spite of all this, Europe does not intervene because she does not know, even does not suspect the sufferings of Bulgaria, artificially misled by those whose interests dictate it.

The truth is skillfully consealed and almost nobody knows anything, for should Bulgarian sufferings come to light, there can hardly be found an European consciousness and heart which will not cry-out for justice watching the unhuman sufferings of the most laborious Christian Balkan nation.

To the entire world we reveal these facts and in the name of the victims, in the name of the desired Peace and the Supreme Justice, we appeal for a peaceful revision of the Treaty of Neuilly.

November, 27, 1935

(sixteen years since the Treaty of Neuilly has been signed in the name of Peace).

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